

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3, 4, and 5.

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

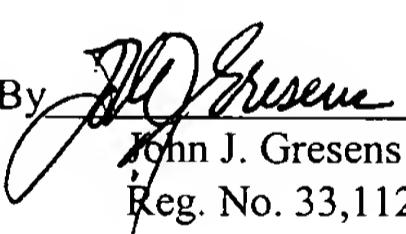
If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

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CLAIMS

1. A process for producing a diaphragm with applied catalytically active layer for use in low-temperature fuel cells, comprising the following steps:

a) processing a hydrophobic solvent, a catalytically active material and a polymer solution to form a paste, which does not contain any hydrophilic solvents.

b) applying the paste in layer form to a polymer diaphragm, and

c) pressing the diaphragm with the applied paste with the application of heat so that the solvents escape and the catalytically active material is fixed on the diaphragm.

2. A process as set forth in claim 1 wherein the paste is applied to the diaphragm in layer form by screen printing.

3. A process as set forth in claim 1 [or claim 2] wherein a further binder was added to the paste.

- CLAIM 1 --

4. A process as set forth in [one of the preceding claims] wherein a plasticizer was mixed with the paste.

- CLAIM 1 --

5. A process as set forth in [one of the preceding claims] wherein the paste applied to the diaphragm in layer form is dried prior to the pressing operation at temperatures of between 30 and 80°C.